



FH
[REDACTED]

STATE OF WISCONSIN
Division of Hearings and Appeals

In the Matter of

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

DECISION

FOO/162172

PRELIMINARY RECITALS

Pursuant to a petition filed November 20, 2014, under Wis. Admin. Code § HA 3.03(1), to review a decision by the Milwaukee Enrollment Services in regard to FoodShare benefits (FS), a hearing was held on December 16, 2014, at Milwaukee, Wisconsin.

The issue for determination is whether Milwaukee Enrollment Services (the agency) correctly reduced the Petitioner's FoodShare benefits effective December 1, 2014.

There appeared at that time and place the following persons:

PARTIES IN INTEREST:

Petitioner:

[REDACTED] |
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Respondent:

Department of Health Services
1 West Wilson Street, Room 651
Madison, Wisconsin 53703

By: Pang Thao-Xiong, Income Maintenance Specialist Advanced
Milwaukee Enrollment Services
1220 W. Vliet St., Room 106
Milwaukee, WI 53205

ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE:

Mayumi M. Ishii
Division of Hearings and Appeals

FINDINGS OF FACT

1. Petitioner (CARES # [REDACTED]) is a resident of Milwaukee County.
2. On November 10, 2014, the agency sent the Petitioner a notice indicating that as of December 1, 2014, his FoodShare benefits would be reduced from \$194.00 to \$16.00 per month. (Exhibit 5, pgs. 13-18)

3. The Petitioner receives \$370.00 per week in Unemployment Insurance Benefits (UIB). This works out to be:

$$\$370 \times 4.3 \text{ average weeks per month} = \$1591 \text{ monthly income}$$

(Exhibit 5 pgs. 10 and 11; Testimony of Petitioner)
4. The Petitioner pays rent in the amount of \$480.00 per month. He does not pay for a separate heating expense and did not report a phone expense. (Exhibit 2, pgs. 9 and 16)

DISCUSSION

Petitioner filed an appeal to contest the reduction of his FoodShare benefits.

Once a household passes the gross income test the following deductions are applied in determining the FoodShare allotment. (FSH, at § 4.6):

- (1) a standard deduction –

Effective October 1, 2014, this was \$155.00 for an assistance group of 1-3 people, 7 CFR § 273.9(d)(1):

- (2) an earned income deduction - which equals 20% of the household's total earned income, 7 CFR § 273.9(d)(2);

Petitioner does not have any earned income, so this would not apply to her.

- (3) certain medical expenses – for medical expenses exceeding \$35 in a month for an elderly, blind or disabled person, 7 CFR § 273.9(d)(3);

Petitioner did not report any out of pocket medical expenses.

- (4) dependent care deduction for child care expenses, 7 CFR § 273.9(d)(4); and

Petitioner did not report any child care expenses.

- (5) shelter and utility expenses deduction the deduction is equal to the excess expense above 50% of net income remaining after other deductions. 7 CFR § 273.9(d)(5).

There is a cap on this deduction of \$490 per month, unless the recipient is elderly, blind or disabled, meaning a food unit member age 60 or older or a person who receives disability or blindness benefits from any of these programs: SSA, MA, SSI or SSI related MA, Railroad Retirement Board (RRB). FSH, §3.8.1.1.

FSH, §§ 4.6.7.1 and 8.1.3.

Previously, Federal Regulations allowed households who received at least \$1.00 in energy assistance to receive an income deduction for the Heating Standard Utility Allowance (HSUA). (Ops Memo 14-16) In 2009, the State of Wisconsin issued an annual energy assistance payment of \$1.00 to FoodShare households who did not already receive energy assistance. (Id.) This allowed all households to receive an income deduction for the HSUA, which is currently, \$446. (Id.)

The 2014 Farm Bill changed the Federal Regulations to require households to receive greater than \$20 in energy assistance, in order to receive the \$446 HSUA. (Ops Memo 14-16) Consequently, Effective April 1, 2014, the State of Wisconsin stopped providing the \$1.00 energy assistance to households not who were not receiving energy assistance. (Id.) Consequently, many of those households, like the Petitioner's, lost the HSUA deduction, because they did not have a separate heating bill and did not receive energy assistance.

Applying the applicable deductions to Petitioner's income we have the following net income calculation for December 1, 2014:

Gross Income	\$1591.00	Rent	\$480.00
No Earned Income Deduction		HSUA	+\$0
Standard Deduction	-\$155.00	50% Net income	-\$718
No Medical Expenses exceeding \$35			
No Dependent Care Expenses		Excess Shelter Expense	\$0
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Net Income before shelter expense	\$1436		
Excess Shelter Expense	- \$0		
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Net Income	\$1436		

Effective October 1, 2014, individuals, in a household of one, with a net income of \$1436 qualified for a FoodShare allotment of \$16 per month. FSH §8.1.2

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

The agency correctly reduced the Petitioner's FoodShare benefits, effective December 1, 2014.

THEREFORE, it is

ORDERED

That the petition is dismissed.

REQUEST FOR A REHEARING

You may request a rehearing if you think this decision is based on a serious mistake in the facts or the law or if you have found new evidence that would change the decision. Your request must be **received within 20 days after the date of this decision**. Late requests cannot be granted.

Send your request for rehearing in writing to the Division of Hearings and Appeals, 5005 University Avenue, Suite 201, Madison, WI 53705-5400 **and** to those identified in this decision as "PARTIES IN INTEREST." Your rehearing request must explain what mistake the Administrative Law Judge made and why it is important or you must describe your new evidence and explain why you did not have it at your first hearing. If your request does not explain these things, it will be denied.

The process for requesting a rehearing may be found at Wis. Stat. § 227.49. A copy of the statutes may be found online or at your local library or courthouse.

APPEAL TO COURT

You may also appeal this decision to Circuit Court in the county where you live. Appeals must be filed with the Court **and** served either personally or by certified mail on the Secretary of the Department of Health Services, 1 West Wilson Street, Room 651, Madison, Wisconsin 53703, **and** on those identified in

this decision as “PARTIES IN INTEREST” **no more than 30 days after the date of this decision** or 30 days after a denial of a timely rehearing (if you request one).

The process for Circuit Court Appeals may be found at Wis. Stat. §§ 227.52 and 227.53. A copy of the statutes may be found online or at your local library or courthouse.

Given under my hand at the City of Milwaukee,
Wisconsin, this 22nd day of December, 2014

\sMayumi M. Ishii
Administrative Law Judge
Division of Hearings and Appeals



State of Wisconsin\DIVISION OF HEARINGS AND APPEALS

Brian Hayes, Administrator
Suite 201
5005 University Avenue
Madison, WI 53705-5400

Telephone: (608) 266-3096
FAX: (608) 264-9885
email: DHAmail@wisconsin.gov
Internet: <http://dha.state.wi.us>

The preceding decision was sent to the following parties on December 22, 2014.

Milwaukee Enrollment Services
Division of Health Care Access and Accountability